

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of automatically learning control sequences associated with a plurality of computer application programs, comprising:
- 5 supplying a data structure;
- extracting a first set of control sequences from a first computer application program;
- extracting a second set of control sequences from a second computer application program; and
- 10 loading said first set of control sequences and said second set of control sequences into said data structure.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of executing said first set of control sequences, said executing step including:
- 15 using said first set of control sequences to open said first computer application program;
- using said first set of control sequences to perform a subroutine of said first computer application program; and
- using said first set of control sequences to close said computer application
- 20 program.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- including a graphical user interface to prompt a user for selected control sequences.
- 25
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:
- including a spread sheet in said graphical user interface.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said first set of control sequences includes a
- 30 control sequence to run said first computer application program.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said first set of control sequences includes a control sequence to open said first computer application program.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said first set of control sequences includes a control sequence to close said first computer application program.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said first set of control sequences includes a control sequence to open a document within said first computer application program.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said first set of control sequences includes a control sequence to print a document associated with said first computer application program.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said first set of control sequences includes a control sequence to close a document associated with said first computer application program.

11. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product for automatically learning control sequences of a plurality of computer application programs, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

a data structure;
instructions to extract a first set of control sequences from a first computer application program;
instructions to extract a second set of control sequences from a second computer application program; and
instructions to load said first set of control sequences and said second set of control sequences into said data structure.

12. The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising a second computer program mechanism, including:

instructions to use said first set of control sequences to open said first computer application program;

instructions to use said first set of control sequences to perform a subroutine of said first computer application program; and

5 instructions to use said first set of control sequences to close said first computer application program.

13. The computer program product of claim 11 further comprising:
instructions to display a graphical user interface.

10

14. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:
instructions to include a spread sheet in said graphical user interface.

15. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said first set of control
15 sequences includes a control sequence to ^{run} said first computer application program.

16. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said first set of control
sequences includes a control sequence to open said first computer application
program.

20

17. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said first set of control
sequences includes a control sequence to close said first computer application
program.

25 18. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said first set of control
sequences includes a control sequence to open a document associated with said first
computer application program.

19. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein said first set of control
30 sequences includes a control sequence to print a document associated with said first
computer application program.

20. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein said first set of control sequences includes a control sequence to close a document associated with said first computer application program.

21. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein said instructions to extract a first set of control sequences from a first computer application program further include instructions to detect whether said first computer application program includes a graphical user display with a menu bar.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein said instructions to extract further include instructions to extract a first control sequence corresponding to a second control sequence executed when menu items are selected from said menu bar.

[illegible]